

6. ADDITIONS "TO THE BIRDS OF GOA BY ROBERT B. GRUBH & SALIM ALI  
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I had the opportunity to visit the forests of Goa, thrice during the last year, with a few members of the Bombay Natural History Society and World Wildlife Fund — India. A brief survey of the flora and fauna of the region was made during these visits which covered the periods from 1) 18th to 24th May 1981, 2) 6th to 10th April 1982, 3) 16th to 22nd June 1982. All these three visits were confined to the localities of Castlerock — Dudhsagar, Molem, Bondla and Mayem lake. Though the Castlerock — Anmod region is on the border of Goa, my notes here strictly adhere to the geographical Goa region. A total of 162 species of birds were recorded. The following list consists of the species not recorded in the BNHS ornithological survey in November-December 1972.

WILDLIFE

Contrary to the report of the BNHS survey of 1972, we recorded the following:

- 1) Giant squirrel — *Ratufa indica* (Erxleben)  
Noted: Dudhsagar, Molem, Bondla.
- 2) Five-triped palm squirrel — *Funambulus pennanti* Wroughton.  
Noted: Molem.
- 3) Common Indian langur — *Presbytis entellus* (Dufresne)  
Noted: Dudhsagar, Molem.
- 4) Bonnet monkey — *Macaca radiata* (Geoffroy)  
Noted: Molem, Bondla.
- 5) Striped hyena — *Hyaena hyaena* (Linnaeus)  
Noted: Molem.
- 6) Barking deer — *Muntiacus muntjak* (Zimmermann)  
Noted: Molem, Bondla.

- 7) Jackal — *Canis aureus* Linnaeus  
Noted: Molem.
- 8) Wild boar — *Sus scrofa* Linnaeus  
Noted: Molem.

In addition to these, flying lizards (*Draco dussumieri*) at Molem, a checkered keelback (*Xenochrophis piscator*) and a common wolf snake (*Lycodon aulicus*) were observed at Bondla.

Whitebreasted laughing thrushes were recorded at Dudhsagar during the second visit. These birds were also found in large parties of 30 to 40 at Castlerock. This is being noted here because in the BNHS survey report, the absence of this bird is specifically mentioned.

Rosy minivets were seen at Molem during the first and second visits. It would be interesting to determine whether these birds regularly overwinter in Goa or if there is any record of breeding.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

1. *Ardeola striatus* (Linné). Little Green Heron  
Noted: Panaji.
2. *Ciconia episcopus* (Boddaert). Whitenecked Stork  
Noted: Molem.
3. *Accipiter virgatus* (Temminck). Besra Sparrow-hawk  
Noted: Molem.
4. *Perdica asiatica* (Latham). Jungle Bush Quail  
Noted: Mayem.
5. *Pavo cristatus* Linné. Common Peafowl  
Noted: Molem, Bondla.
6. *Treron phoenicoptera* (Latham). Green Pigeon  
Noted: Bondla.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

7. *Ducula badia* (Jerdon). Jerdon's or Southern Maroonbacked Imperial Pigeon  
Noted: Bondla.
8. *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frisvaldszky). Indian Ring Dove  
Noted: Bondla.
9. *Streptopelia chinensis* (Scopoli). Spotted Dove  
Noted: Molem, Bondla.
10. *Cuculus varius* Vahl. Common Hawk-cuckoo  
Noted: Molem, Bondla, Mayem.
11. *Cacomantis sonneratii* (Latham). Indian Bay banded Cuckoo  
Noted: Molem.
12. *Cacomantis passerinus* (Vahl). Indian Plaintive Cuckoo  
Noted: Molem.
13. *Surniculus lugubris* (Horsfield). Drongocuckoo  
Noted: Bondla, Molem.
14. *Apus affinis* (J. E. Gray). House Swift  
Noted: Molem, Panaji.
15. *Ceyx erithacus* (Linné). Threetoed Kingfisher  
Noted: Colem, Molem.
16. *Picus chlorolophus* Vieillot. Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker  
Noted: Dudhsagar.
17. *Picoiðes mahrattensis* (Latham). Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker  
Noted: Molem, Bondla.
18. *Pitta brachyura* (Linné). Indian Pitta  
Noted: Bondla, Mayem.
19. *Hirundo concolor* Sykes. Dusky Crag Martin  
Noted: Panaji.
20. *Hirundo smithii* Leach. Wiretailed Swallow  
Noted: Panaji, Mayem.
21. *Artamus fuscus* Vieillot. Ashy Swallowshrike  
Noted: Molem.
22. *Sturnus erythropygius* (Blyth). White-headed Myna  
Noted: Molem.
23. *Gracula religiosa* Linné. Hill Myna  
Noted: Dudhsagar, Colem.
24. *Garrulax jerdoni* Blyth. Whitebreasted Laughing Thrush  
Noted: Dudhsagar.
25. *Rhipidura albicollis* (Vieillot). White-throated Fantail Flycatcher  
Noted: Bondla, Mayem.
26. *Sylvia curruca* (Linné). Lesser White-throat  
Noted: Bondla.
27. *Saxicola caprata* (Linné). Pied Bushchat  
Noted: Panaji, Mayem.
28. *Parus major* Linné. Grey tit  
Noted: Bondla.
29. *Parus xanthogenys* Vigors. Yellowcheeked Tit  
Noted: Molem, Bondla.
30. *Sitta castanea* Lesson. Chestnutbellied Nuthatch  
Noted: Molem.
31. *Nectarinia lotenia* (Linné). Loten's Sunbird  
Noted: Bondla.
32. *Aethopyga siparaja* (Raffles). Yellow-backed Sunbird  
Noted: Bondla, Mayem.
33. *Zosterops palpebrosa* (Temminck). White-eye  
Noted: Bondla.

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7. OCCURRENCE OF THE BLACK TERN *CHLIDONIAS NIGER*  
(LINN.) IN INDIA

In 1950 Horace Alexander (*JBNHS* 49, pp. 120/121) published the first record of a Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (Linn.) from India being one seen at Delhi. In subsequent literature (Ripley's SYNOPSIS 1961 and 1982, INDIAN HANDBOOK 1969 and 1981), this sighting has been considered the only record from our limits and as such to be treated with caution.

Accordingly, Humayun Abdulali in Checklist of the Birds of Delhi, Agra and Bharatpur (1978) marked it for Delhi only and was surprised to see it included in a list of birds of Bharatpur published by the Chief Wildlife Warden for Rajasthan at Jaipur, and now being sold at Bharatpur.

As the only possibility appeared to be its inclusion in the BNHS Bird ringing records for this area, these were examined but with no positive result. VCA however drew attention to correspondence wherein on 7th December 1970, P. B. Shekar, the Society's Field Assistant, telegraphed from Point Calimere,

Dist. Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, 10°18'N; 79°51' E, that a tern bearing Moscow ring marked Moskwa F-140.956 had been obtained. The U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences by their letter No. 3450 dated 19th January 1972 said it had been placed on a juvenile *Chlidonias niger* at Artek, Krasnovodkii, Turkmen S.S.R., 37.21 N, 53.56 E, on 18th July 1970, definitely establishing the occurrence of the species in India.

As no information is available in Indian literature regarding this species it may be mentioned that the bird had its wing measured as 221 mm. and weighed 72 gms. The weight is slightly over that noted in BIRDS OF THE SOVIET UNION (1969, Vol. 3:627), i.e. gms *contra* 52.8 to 67.8 gm.

This is an important record permitting acceptance of the earlier sight record and we are writing this note for it appears to have escaped attention and has remained unpublished.

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